

## News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: June 4, 2008**

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### **DES Announces Natural Mean High Water Elevation of Silver Lake in Tilton/Belmont**

Concord, NH - The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) today announced the Natural Mean High Water Elevation (NMHW) of Silver Lake in Tilton and Belmont is at elevation 468.0 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD).

Since the late 1980's the State of New Hampshire has listed the NMHW of Silver Lake as 468.0 feet NGVD. However, at the request of several persons, most of whom were abutters to the lake, DES agreed to review, reconsider and, if appropriate, revise the previously determined NMHW. Based on site investigations, an analysis of flow statistics and water levels at Silver Lake, a review of historic files and an evaluation of the hydrology and hydraulics of the Silver Lake watershed, DES confirmed that the NMHW at Silver Lake is 468.0.

Silver Lake is considered a Natural Lake, therefore ownership of the lake bed below the elevation of the NMHW is held by the State of New Hampshire in trust for the public. The land surrounding Silver Lake also has established restrictions due to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act. These include restrictions on shoreland activities within a certain distance of the "reference line", a line established for fresh water bodies without impoundment as the natural mean high water level as determined by the DES.

The complete determination is available at [www.des.nh.gov/Dam/documents/silver\\_lake\\_det2008.pdf](http://www.des.nh.gov/Dam/documents/silver_lake_det2008.pdf). Appeal of this decision may be submitted to the Water Council by filing a Notice of Appeal in accordance with the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Chapter Env-WC 200 (Water Council Procedural Rules) within 30 days. For more information regarding this determination, please contact Jim Gallagher, Chief Water Resources Engineer, at 271-1961.

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